

Appl. No. 10/509,136  
Reply to Office Action of February 13, 2006

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An image display apparatus comprising:

an illumination optical system having a light source;

a plurality of spatial light modulation elements each having reflecting electrodes;

a polarization elements element corresponding to each of the plural spatial light modulation elements;

a color separation/composition element for color-separating illumination light from the illumination optical system into ~~transmission light and reflection light to direct thus generated~~ transmission light and reflection light ~~[[to]]~~ for the respective spatial light modulation elements ~~via the corresponding polarization elements~~ and for compositing reflection lights from the spatial light modulation elements, the color separation/composition element having reflection planes laid obliquely ~~against~~ with respect to the illumination light ~~where the illumination light is color-separated and the reflection lights are composited;~~

a projection optical system for projecting composited light outgoing from the color separation/composition element to display an image of the respective spatial light modulation elements;

a first polarization change means ~~for, of the illumination light,~~ causing light of wavelength band which is supposed to pass through the reflection planes of the color separation/composition element to be of P-polarized light toward the reflection planes and causing light of wavelength band which is supposed to be reflected by the reflection planes of

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the color separation/composition element to be of S-polarized light toward the reflection planes, the first polarization change means being disposed ||on|| in an optical path between the illumination optical system and the color separation/composition element; and  
a second polarization change means for, ~~of the illumination light,~~ rotating polarization direction of light of a wavelength band which is supposed to be blocked by the polarization element, the second polarization change means being disposed in ~~on~~ an optical path between the color separation/composition element and the polarization element corresponding to at least one ~~the~~ spatial light modulation element.

5. (Currently Amended) The image display apparatus according to claim 4, wherein  
the second polarization change means is a retarder stack ~~which, of the illumination light,~~ rotates only polarization direction of light of wavelength band which is supposed to be blocked by the polarization element.

6. (Original) The image display apparatus according to claim 4, wherein  
transmission axes of the respective polarization elements are rotated against polarization directions of the illumination lights outgoing from the color separation/composition element to the respective polarization elements so as to adjust white balance of a display image.